TO,
THE TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the health of the Tiverton Rural District for the year 1920.

Population 1911 - 15,340; estimated 1920 - 14,178.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT :

The Western and Eastern Sections of the District are comprised of high ground rising to 800 or 900 feet with numerous valleys carrying tributaries to feed the three rivers which run through the District namely the Exe, Culm and Lowman, the two latter also discharging into the Exe.

Running from North to South is a broad valley four to six miles in width in which are situated the towns of Cullompton and Uffculme and the villages of Willand and Kentisbeare.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS :

The District is mainly agricultural with woollen mills at Uffculme and Cullompton, Paper Mills at Cullompton, Bradninch and Silverton and a couple of tanneries at Cullompton.

VITAL STATISTICS :

During the year 1920 the total number of deaths registered (civilians only) was 150 of which 67 were males and 83 females. In 1919 the total deaths numbered 196.

The death rate for this year works out at 10.58 on the estimated population of 14,178.

The death rate for the preceding year was 14.374 on an estimated population of 13,635.

The total number of births was 312 against last year's total of 215, of these 164 were males and 148 females. Eight males and three females were illegitimate.

The Birth rate works out at 21.86 which is a great improvement on last year's of 15.136 on an estimated population of 14,204.

Twelve deaths under one year were registered. This gives an infant mortality rate of 38.46, last year the rate was 46.51.

Of the total deaths 44 were over 70.

Birth and Death Rates for last five years :

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Birth Rate	16.36	12.12	13.21	15.13	21.86
Death Rate.	14.06	15.33	13.14	14.37	10.58
Infantile mortality	40.48	79.76	91.93	46.51	38.46

The principal causes of death were Influenza 2; Tubercular disease 11; Cancer 17; Heart Disease 24; Brights Disease 9.

HOSPITALS :

The Hospital needs of the District are served principally by the Tiverton Hospital, Tiverton, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter; and to a small extent by the Taunton Hospital.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

The amount of out door Relief for the year ending September 30th 1920 was £2112 as against £1,896 in 1919.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The villages of Bradninch and Silverton have their own reservoirs. Silverton has a constant supply. Bradninch supply is turned off at night during the summer months but it is proposed to drive an Adit to intercept the springs at their summer level which it is hoped will add materially to the quantity of water available.

Morebath village also has a public supply delivered to stand posts in the street.

It is to be regretted that a town the size of Cullompton has not a public supply as all closets have to be hand flushed. This applies to Uffculme in a lesser degree.

The general character of the water throughout the District may be described as "Good".

None of the water in the District is liable to be contaminated by Plumbo Solvent Action.

Nineteen samples of water were analysed and three found to be bad from surface drainage; the defects were remedied.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The pollution of the Culm at Cullompton has been rectified and that at Uffculme it is hoped will soon be taken in hand the plans for the work having been passed by the Parish Council.

SEWERAGE.

The town of Cullompton and the villages of Bradninch, Uffculme, Thorverton and Silverton have sewerage systems, Holberton and Sompford Peverill are partly sewered.

The sewage is disposed of by means of settling tanks and Broad Irrigation.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the country districts either cesspits or the pail system are in general use.

Bradninch has flushing cisterns for its closets.

In the other town or villages hand flushing is the usual custom.

SCAVENGING.

In Cullompton the town scavenger removes house refuse from the principal streets daily and from the rest of the town bi-weekly.

In Bradninch, Silverton and Uffculme the refuse is removed once a week.

In the remainder of the district each house holder has to attend to the disposal of his own refuse.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The usual course of visiting and inspecting the sanitary conditions of the district has been carried out in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector.

The number and nature of these Inspections with the result of action taken are embodied in the Sanitary Officers report attached hereto.

There are no Byelaws for control of Premises or Occupations within the District Schools.

All the Schools in the district have been inspected and found in a sanitary condition and water supply satisfactory.

Morebath School closed for scarlet fever from July 19th till after Holidays.

MILK.

The milk supply of the district is more than adequate for its needs and considerable amount is sent off by rail.

There have been no complaints as to the distribution or the quality of the milk supplied by farmers or dealers.

MOTHERS and CHILDREN.

Sixteen mothers were granted milk generally seven pints a week.

MEAT.

There is no regular system of meat Inspection throughout the district and no meat inspector has been appointed.

There is not any public abattoir in the district.

The carcase of one Bullock was destroyed for tuberculosis.

A certain amount of tuberculosis is found among the pigs slaughtered at the wholesale abattoirs.

There are four modern slaughterhouses for "export" trade. Two for pigs and two general with no regular Inspection. The number of beasts of all kinds would average from 1500 to 2000 per week.

The slaughterhouses in the district have been frequently visited and found in good order except for some cases of whitewashing.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES in the DISTRICT at DATES mentioned.

	In 1914	In Jan. 1920	In Dec. 1920
Registered	25	25	25
Licensed	3	3	3
TOTAL	28	28	28

The thirty three Bakehouses have been frequently visited and found in good condition. Whitewashing was required in four cases.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

The enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act is in the hands of the Police Authorities there were no prosecutions during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The total number of Infectious diseases notified during 1920, amounts to 75.

Of these 57 were Scarlet Fever, 3 Diphtheria, 10 Pneumonia, 2 Malaria, 2 Opthalmia Manatorum, 1 Puerperal Fever.

The Scarlet fever cases were of a mild type and came principally from Morebath, Uffculme, Bradninch and Cullompton.

The number of cases removed to the Isolation Hospital was forty one.

There were no zymotic deaths during the year.

There have not been any return cases of Scarlet Fever.

Influenza was responsible for one death.

Medical Practitioners have been granted the privilege of sending swabs and specimens of sputum and blood to the County Medical Officer at Exeter for examination; of this they make full use and find it a great aid in their work. It is a most useful step in preventive medicine and of great benefit to the public generally.

There have been no cases of Anthrax or Rabies notified in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS :

There were 39 notifications of Tuberculosis during the year. Of these 32 were Pulmonary and 7 tuberculosis of other organs.

Tuberculosis caused the death of 9 persons, five women and four men.

As far as I can judge the medical men in the district are quite willing to notify tuberculosis in the early stages.

There are no dispensaries or visiting stations in the district.

On a case being notified it is visited, advice tendered and a leaflet of instructions left, also a sputum flask with a bottle of disinfectant fluid.

Once a week the notifications are sent to the County M.O.H. and later on the case is visited by the Tuberculosis Officer who decides on the form of treatment, whether Dispensary, Sanatorium or Home.

On the removal or death of a patient the premises are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

As a general rule patients are anxious and willing to avail themselves of Sanatorium treatment.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

These are not very prevalent in a District such as this.

There is a clinic in Exeter to which cases from the district are sent.

None of the Medical Practitioners in the district are qualified to receive free supplies of Salvarson substitutes.

SMALL POX

There is no small pox hospital in the District.

No primary vaccinations nor re vaccinations have been made by me as M.O.H. under the Public Health (small pox prevention) Regulations of 1917.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Inspectors of Midwives and Health Visitors are appointed by the County Council.

One case of Puerperal Fever was notified which recovered.

Two cases of Opthalmia Monatorium occurred. One case completely recovered but in the other the sight of both eyes was permanently injured.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) The staff consists of one Sanitary Inspector who is also Inspector of Nuisances.

(2) The Tiverton Rural District in conjunction with the Borough of Tiverton has provided the Tiverton Isolation Hospital which is situated within the Borough of Tiverton and is carried on as a Joint Institution.

This Hospital has up to the present time proved amply sufficient for the requirements of the community.

Forty one cases of Scarlet Fever were treated from the Tiverton Rural District last year.

(3) The Adopted Acts in the District are Part III of the Public Health Amendment Act 1890 also Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890.

Byelaws in force are Building Byelaws and regulations made by the Rural District Council of Tiverton with respect to Dairies Cowsheds and Milkshops.

(4) No arrangements for chemical or Bacteriological work during 1920 have been made except for the examination of pathological specimens as already stated.

HOUSING.

I. General Housing conditions may be described as fair to good.

In 1914 the total number of houses in the District was 3496. The number built since then was 1915 10, 1916 3.

1917, 4, 1918 Nil, 1919 Nil, 1920 3 bringing the number of houses in 1920 up to 3516.

Of these 3096 were rented at £16 per annum or under so may be classed as working class dwelling houses.

No important change occurred in the population during the year and none is anticipated.

There is a shortage of Houses in the District and it is proposed to build to the following extent in the undermentioned Parishes.

Bradninch 12	Butterleigh 2
Silverton 12	Templeton 2
Cullompton 36	Cruwys Morchard 8
Willand 20	Oakford 6
Uffculme 24	Washfield 5
Sompford Peverill 25	Huntsham 2
Holberton 35	Hockworthy 4
Uplowman 8	Clayhanger 2
Kentisbeare 10	Morebath 10
Cadbury 2	Loxbeare 6
Cadeleigh 4	

Of the above 12 at Cullompton 12 at Bradninch and 3 at Washfield are nearing completion.

II Overcrowding does occur in the District to a certain extent which it is hoped will be remedied when the Building schemes are completed.

III The principal defects found in the houses are those due to age of Building, want of through ventilation and inferior sanitary accommodation.

When these defects are found to exist the owners are notified and if repairs etc. are not carried out the matter is brought before the District Council for further action.

IV There are no unhealthy Areas in the District.

V Existing Byelaws appear to be sufficient for the present.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
JOHN R.R. POLLOCK,
Medical Officer of Health,
Tiverton Rural District.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the year ending December 31st 1920.

TO,
THE TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the past year.

It is still difficult to make speedy progress with Sanitary work as The Housing Scheme absorbs the greater part of available labour, and the cost of both materials and labour is abnormally high; consequently owners of cottage property especially with a small rental, only do what is absolutely necessary.

HOUSING &c.

Plans for the erection of 21 new houses have been submitted and approved.

Building operations are proceeding satisfactorily in various parts of the District; several houses have been occupied, and others are nearing completion.

I have made a considerable number of inspections under The Housing of Working Classes Acts of 1890, and 1909 in various Parishes, and furnished detailed reports to the "Housing Committee" as to the condition of 69 houses found to be more or less defective.

The nature of the defects were as follows,

General Repairs necessary	37
Water supplies unsatisfactory	3
Drainage, Closets &c. do.	12
Insufficient ventilation	14
Dampness	14
Whitewashing &c. required	35

Formal notices of these defects were sent to the respective owners; by the Council's Clerk, asking them to carry out the necessary work as recommended by myself. Most of these notices have been complied with, and work is still proceeding. Closing orders were made for 3 cottages at Cullompton. These have been carried out.

OVERCROWDING.

There are several cases of overcrowding in the District with which we cannot deal satisfactorily, owing to the dearth of cottages. We have endeavoured to abate the evil so far as is possible by getting parents to send children out to sleep with friends.

"Void Cottages":- There are still cottages in some parts of the District which were allowed to become uninhabitable,

prior to 1919. The rent in most cases would be insufficient to pay cost of repairs.

SEWERAGE.

The sewers, and outfall works in the District are fairly satisfactory.

"Cullompton". The "Sedimentation Tank" has been cleaned out, and rendered more efficient by the construction of baffle walls and boards.

In Exeter Road a section of 9" sewer found to be defective, has been taken up and properly relaid.

Two new Manholes have also been constructed on this line of sewer. It has also been decided to deal with a further section of this sewer in "Frogpool Meadow", which is also defective.

"Bradninch" West End: The Highway drainage, which was formerly connected with the sewer, causing not only a chokage of the sewer but also of the drains from Mr. Dunn's cottages at "Higher Colehards", and at times an overflow of sewerage on the highway, has now by the kind permission of Lady Hepburn, been allowed to discharge into the ditch of an adjoining orchard.

I suggested this should be done in 1914, as Mr. Dunn objected to construct new drains for his cottages until the wash from the road had been diverted.

Owing to the war, and the necessary easement not having been obtained it has not been possible to carry out this work until the closing part of this year. We have now, no trouble with the sewer.

"Uffculme":- A new section of sewer has been constructed from Ashley Road, to Mill Street.

HOUSE DRAINAGE &c.

Seventeen new drains have been constructed for soil, and slop water, and six drains have been repaired.

HOUSE REFUSE.

At Bradninch, Cullompton, Silverton, and Uffculme, the removal is carried out by the Sanitary Authority.

In the rest of the District the cottagers dispose of it in their gardens and allotments.

No Ashbins are provided.

RIVER'S POLLUTION.

At Cullompton and Uffculme, the sewage is dealt with by broad irrigation on meadow land. At times pollution has occurred through the overflow of sewage into ditches communicating with the river.

At Cullompton the evil has been remedied by the alteration of the Sewage Tank as above mentioned, and repairs to the irrigation channels.

At Uffculme, increased care has been taken to prevent any overflow direct to the river.

Plans have been prepared and approved for the construction of Outfall Works to deal with the sewage before it is discharged on the land.

The proposed works consist of a Sedimentation Tank.

Screening and Clearing Chambers, also Sludge Tank and Fitter.

WATER SUPPLY.

Bradninch, Morebath, and Silverton, have Public Supplies. The quality of the water is good, but the quantity is limited during the summer months.

Plans have been prepared and approved for increasing the Bradninch supply, by driving an "Adit" into the hill above "Paceycombe" reservoir. It is hoped to carry out this work during the coming summer.

In connection with the new Housing Scheme, and sanitation generally; it would be desirable to provide public supplies for Cullompton, Halverton, Uffculme, and Willand. In each of these places a supply of good water can easily be obtained.

During the year I have taken 19 samples of water for analysis, three of which have been dealt with as the water was found unfit for use. It is now all right.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In all cases, the premises, bedding, clothing &c. have been thoroughly disinfected. One small lot was burnt as it was not worth the cost of removal to the "Disinfector".

SCHOOLS.

I have disinfected Bickleigh, Morebath, and Uffculme Schools after outbreaks of Scarlet Fever.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 32 bakehouses, none of which are underground.

I have made frequent inspections, and find as a rule that the Regulations as to whitewashing &c. are complied with.

Four verbal notices to whitewash were also complied with.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 28 Slaughterhouses, 3 of which are "Licensed" and 25 "Registered". Frequent inspections have been made, and I find them usually kept clean and in fair condition. A few verbal notices to whitewash have been given, these were complied with.

"Meat Inspection". In four of the Slaughterhouses, a large number of animals are killed for export trade.

An approximate average would be at least 1,500 per week.

It is of course impossible that we could carry out an adequate inspection in addition to the many other duties pertaining to our office. It is a very important matter which needs consideration.

I find Tuberculosis prevails to a considerable extent amongst Pigs. It is I think possible that feeding with offal, may partially account for this; as animals so disposed of are frequently diseased.

DAIRIES and MILKSHOPS.

Eighty are registered. Frequent inspections have been made, and as a rule I find no cause for complaint.

A large export trade is carried on in the District.

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

There are 158 on the Register. They are kept clean, and in good condition, ventilation and sanitary requirements are satisfactory. Two new closets have been provided at Uffculme.

There is no overcrowding.

Fire Exits are provided in accordance with the Act.

Provision for this is now being made at the "Cullompton Weavers" Works at Cullompton.

No outworkers are employed at present.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

None in the District.

SCAVENGING.

This has been carried out in a satisfactory manner throughout the District.

I have the honour to remain Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
ROBT. ELLIS. M.I.M.E., M.I.S.A.
Sanitary Inspector.